

Five-Year Plan (2001-2006)

Little Compton

Little Compton is a rural, seaside town with a population of 3,593 year- round residents, that by the year 2005 is projected to reach 3,830. The population is 99.2% Caucasian. The primary language spoken is English. The Town is surrounded on three sides by the ocean creating a prime summer vacation area. Little Compton has a large number of seasonal residents, which doubles the population during the summer. (Approximately 539 properties are seasonal rents.) Twenty-two percent of the population is school aged, nineteen percent are seniors (65 and over), fifty-nine percent are between 20-64.

Little Compton has one school-serving students from K-8. High School students attend Middletown High School; a growing number of families are being home schooled. Approximately 86% of the residents have completed high school with 33.6% having a bachelor's degree or higher. The businesses in Little Compton are predominately service related. A large part of the population must commute to jobs outside the Town. The medium income is \$ 41,187.

Residents like the seclusion, the quiet, the country, farming character. They feel the most important issues for the future are the issues surrounding the town's water supply, land conservation and historical preservation. The residents of the Town have a strong sense of community. The library is a focal point, meeting the information, educational and social needs of a small, rural town.

Vision Statements

The Brownell Library, Home of the Little Compton Free Public Library is committed to serving the needs of the community. The library must improve general awareness of the library its services and resources. The library must be sensitive in meeting the needs of the community reaching out to all age groups that it serves.

The Brownell Library, Home of the Little Compton Free Public Library will serve as a life-long learning center through its collection, programming, and technology for the citizens of Little Compton.

The Brownell Library will seek a closer relationship with the Josephine Wilbur School to enrich and share the educational materials and resources available. The Library will seeks ways to reach out to our high school and home-schooled students that will enable them to make use of the many and varied educational resources in their library.

The collection and programs available at the Brownell Library will be geared to varying age groups so that all citizens of the town of Little Compton will have the opportunity for educational and cultural enrichment.

The Brownell Library will continue to secure adequate funding through private and public resources to fulfill the technological and educational needs of the community.

Service Responses

Commons

Small meetings and programs can be accommodated in the building at this time. For large meetings and informative programs the library has a relationship with the Community Center that enables us to hold programs in their building. The Friends of the Library support the Community Center and are able to reserve space. Speakers, programs, book sales are held at the Community Center sponsored and developed by the Friends of the Library. This environment is beneficial and contributes to the sense of community. The library is seen as a safe and neutral space for all members of the community.

General Information

The Brownell Library is the community's source for general information and knowledge. The Library will educate people on the CLAN system and the ability to use and place holds through home computers and the World Wide Web. The library will develop a WEB page, which will link patrons to various government information sites local, state and federal. The Library will have on-line databases that patrons will be able to access from home in the future.

A bulletin board is in a central location for town business. The board is updated to reflect current meetings and programs. All town groups have access for posting meetings, agendas, etc.

Community Outreach

The people of Little Compton need to be aware of the services that the library provides, locally and state-wide. The library will reach out to senior citizens, the home bound, the home schooled and the school's library in order to share resources and information.

Local History and Genealogy

The Brownell Library will continue to offer Local History and Genealogy information. This addresses the needs of the community as well as peoples from afar researching personal heritage. The Library in cooperation with the local Historical Society will expand its collection of materials to assist patrons in searching their family histories. Archival materials in the library will be preserved and expanded. Local history and genealogy programs will be sponsored throughout the year.

Library Operations and Service

The Brownell Library needs the staff and volunteers to carry out the services that a library provides. The collection will reflect the general interests of our patrons. The budget will be adequate for carrying out the services the library provides.

Goals and Objectives 2001-2006

Commons

GOAL: For the library to have the space it needs to grow with the changes the town will experience over the next 5 years.

- a. Begin discussion and planning the future expansion of the Children's Room 1/04
- b. Improve parking conditions 4/02
- c. Improve handicap parking/sign 7/01
- d. Develop an outdoor area for reading for all patrons 6/02

General Information

GOAL: For the patrons of Little Compton to be able to find information in a quick and efficient manner.

- a. Develop a WEB page 2/02
- b. Newsletter page to school (once a month) 10/01
- c. Library information handout for new patrons 6/02
- d. Extend outreach to general public
- e. Outreach to senior citizen groups and the home bound 11/01
- f. Increase access to computer workstations
 - 1. Add 2 more work stations 1/05
 - 2. Publicize in-house databases on each workstation 6/01
- g. Develop program for basic computer skills for public 6/02
- h. Establish volunteer program "Homework Helpers" 9/03

Community Outreach

GOAL: To be sure all members of the community are aware of and have access to the library and its services.

1. Outreach to local senior citizens through their meetings; as well as the Visiting Nurse Association to explain library's collection and services (Talking Books, etc.) 1/02
2. Meet with school librarian/devise plan for school/library cooperation 2/02
3. Work in cooperation with Town Officials to keep current in the disbursement of information on community services
4. Establish relationship with Home Schooled families 4/02
5. Establish communication with high school students regarding resources available 1/03
6. Conduct community needs survey every other year 4/03
7. Expand book talks/discussion groups 10/02

Local History and Genealogy

GOAL: To preserve, expand and organize collection of local history and genealogy records.

1. Create a system for preserving materials currently in collection 3/03
2. Increase staff knowledge of the library's local history and genealogy collection
3. Partnership with local Historical Society in areas of preservation and sharing of collection 3/03
4. Purchase a scanner 4/02
5. Inventory the genealogy and local history collection 10/02

Library Operations and Service

GOAL: To ensure that the collection and staffing is adequate.

1. Reevaluate staff needs and training
2. Support staff's continuing education and professional activities
3. Hire a part-time Children's Librarian 6/04
4. Develop a volunteer program 6/02
5. Develop adequate budget to assure that future goals/objectives are met
6. Update current policies and procedures annually
7. Evaluate and weed non-circulating, low interest materials yearly

Library Mission

The Brownell Library, Home of the Little Compton Free Public Library is a small rural library with a knowledgeable and friendly staff willing to assist patrons when needed. The library has a wide selection of materials, fiction and nonfiction, to meet the interests and needs of the community. A varied collection of periodicals and newspapers are available in a reading room that invites quiet reading. The audio, video and large print collection meets the present needs of commuters and visually impaired members of the community. The genealogy room is popular with patrons from across the country. The Little Compton Historical Society and the Brownell Library have placed their collections together to better serve the needs of the genealogist. The library has the latest technology and services. The library has software for teaching skills, tracing genealogy and for general education.

The Brownell Library is dedicated to meeting the informational needs of the community through the growth and expansion of library services for all. To fulfill this mission the library will advance in response to changes in technology, ensuring all patrons with free and equal access. In service to the community the library will work in conjunction with the libraries of Rhode Island and the Office of Library and Information Services in seeking better services, programs and grant opportunities. A sharing of resources statewide enables the library to provide patrons with the widest range of materials and services.

Evaluation

The Five-Year Plan will be reviewed annually to determine the goals and objectives that have been accomplished. All goals and objectives will be reassessed and updated.

Date

Officer of Library Board

Librarian